

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 14 , 2008

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, Chairman  
+Bob Baratko, City of Surprise  
Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe  
Kyle Bogdon, DES/ACYF  
+Paige Garrett, Quality of Life Community Services, Inc  
+Joyce Gross, Town of Buckeye  
Laura Guild, DES/CPIP  
Jeffery Jamison, City of Phoenix  
Tim Cole for Deanna Jonovich, City of Phoenix  
Laraine Stewart for Jim Knaut, Area Agency on Aging  
\*Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County  
Joyce Lopez-Powell, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Steven MacFarlane, City of Phoenix  
Anissa Blair for Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix  
+Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council  
+Joy McClain, City of Tolleson

Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale, Vice Chair  
Carol Sherer, DES/DDD  
Connie Stepnitz, City of Goodyear

OTHERS PRESENT

David Bridge, CASS  
Patti Evan, City of Goodyear  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Brande Mead, MAG  
Shawna Tarboro, SWFHC  
Rena Tenney, MAG  
Diana Toussaint, DES/DAAS

+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

1. Open Meeting for Discussion  
Chair Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:02 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience  
No comments were made.
3. Approval of May 8, 2008 HSCT Meeting Minutes  
Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the May 8, 2008 meeting minutes. Carol Sherer, DES, made a motion to approve the minutes. Kathy Berzins, City of Tempe, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Social Services Block Grant Target Group Presentation

Chair Harris-Morgan stated representatives from the four targets group supported by Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) funding will present a brief overview. He noted the presentations are not intended to advocate for any one target group, but to offer facts regarding demographics and needs. Chair Harris-Morgan stated the Adults, Family's and Children target group mainly serves people who are homeless, survivors of domestic violence and youth. He added the MAG Human Services Planners assigned to these areas will offer the presentation for this target group.

*Elderly Target Group:* Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Laraine Stewart, Area Agency on Aging, who presented on the needs of older adults in the region. Ms. Stewart stated SSBG funds provide assistance to elderly and persons with disabilities between the ages of 18-59. She noted SSBG funds are not the sole source for any one program but are leveraged to provide services to a larger population of eligible clients. She provided a handout that reports the year-end demographic as generated by the DES reporting system. The first part of the report provides demographic data on the home delivered meals program. The second part provides data on the number of persons served for several programs including SSBG supported adult day health care, transportation, and counseling programs.

Ms. Stewart said home care statistics, not included in the report, reflect 2,620 individuals receiving services as of June 30, 2008. Ms. Stewart noted the wait list information is current of July 31, 2008. She said there was a total of 584 people on the wait lists for SSBG funded services such as adult day health care, home delivered meals, home care and counseling. She reported there had been 47,000 calls to the senior help line with the numbers increasing.

Ms. Stewart stated there has not been a recent study regarding the number of individuals estimated to be eligible for services in Maricopa County. She said statistics show there are an estimated 28,720 individuals over the age of 65 living below the poverty line. Eligibility for identified programs includes individuals over the age of 60 and persons with disabilities. She added individuals with incomes above the poverty line also may be eligible for services depending on circumstances identified in the case management assessment. She noted children being raised by grandparents have been included in the demographic data summary. Ms. Stewart said programs funded by SSSG provide help for clients to maintain independence and allow them to remain in their homes. She said individuals can remain independent in their home for much less than the \$4,000 to 5,000 it costs every month to be in a nursing home. Chair Harris-Morgan inquired how many different funding sources there were for this target group and if it was possible to get a break down. Ms. Stewart stated there are many sources including state block grants and as well as state funding. SSBG covers 25 percent of the funding.

*Persons with Developmental Disabilities Target Group:* Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Carol Sherer, DES, who presented on the needs of persons with developmental disabilities. Ms. Sherer provided a handout with information

explaining the population served. She said developmental disabilities are severe, chronic disabilities attributed to mental and/or physical impairment, manifesting before age 18 and likely to continue indefinitely. Ms. Sherer stated SSBG funds provided to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) are utilized to provide services to persons who experience developmental disabilities and are not eligible for funding through AHCCCS. There have been 333 people served through SSBG funding in the last fiscal year.

Ms. Sherer reported on the demographics of the population served. She said 18,300 individuals have been served through the Division in Maricopa County. This is an increase of over 1,400 individuals in the past year. There were 2,563 served aged from birth to three years, 8,379 were 3.1 to 18 years, 5,861 were 18.1 to 50 years and 1,497 were 50.1 to 89 years of age. She reviewed ethnicity and gender noting 11,285 were male and 7,015 were female. Ms. Sherer stated 2,647 were eligible for employment with. She reviewed the many characteristic of persons with developmental disability that includes cognitive disabled, autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy. She added there were 8,606 individuals that are not categorized in the list.

Ms. Sherer reviewed the gaps in service. She said this population experiences a very low rate of employment compared to the general population. There are 141 people on the wait list for employment. The recent unemployment rate for the general public was 5.7 percent compared to 70.2 percent for a person with development disability. Ms. Sherer stated 4,622 were on the waiting list for overall services because they do not meet the Title XIX requirements. She said of the 18,300 consumers eligible for services 5,279 are not funded through AHCCCS or any other source of federal funds. Ms. Sherer noted loss of dollars would affect persons presently served and those on the wait list since state dollar are not available other than Support Coordination.

Ms. Sherer stated even though the amount received through SSBG funding is not as large as other divisions, the funding has a large effect to those needing the service. Based on census data those not employed would receive SSI or other services and not at the full amount. For every dollar SSBG invests in those individual, the return for the community is \$31. Ms. Sheffield inquired what the barrier is for employment. Ms. Sherer said there are lack of employers who will employee a developmentally disabled person and also a lack of support for the employee to learn and maintain the job, especially for those with cognitive disabilities. She said many employers are reluctant to employ those without the additional support for them to maintain their jobs. Ms. Sherer stated SSBG funding is specific to individuals served.

*Adults, Family and Children:* Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Brande Mead, MAG who will report on the homeless population and Renae Tenney, MAG, on domestic violence respectively.

Ms. Mead reported on the homeless population. She stated there are 2,426 men, women and children sleeping on the streets and 4,763 adults and children in shelters in the region. There are 6,096 adults and children sharing living quarters with another

family in the region and 4,572 homeless school children. Ms. Mead said the combined numbers of homeless people on the streets, in emergency and transitional shelter and the number of people in shared living conditions total 13,285 homeless men, women and children in Maricopa County from the point in time count. She said including the 2,900 adults and children in permanent supportive housing, there is a total of 16,185 people who are homeless and in supportive housing.

Ms. Mead reviewed the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data from July 2007- June 2008. She said according to the data in the HMIS, there were a total of 14,095 clients in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. Of these clients, 26 percent are children and 16 percent of the adults in shelter report to be victims of domestic violence. The primary reasons for homelessness (as reported by clients) are lack of financial resources, being evicted, and loss of job. She noted 19 percent of persons in shelter report that they are employed but are not making enough to be able to afford housing. Ms. Mead reported 12 percent of the people in shelter are military veterans, 22 percent reported having a mental illness, 14 percent have substance abuse issues and 21 percent were chronically homeless.

Ms. Mead stated it is difficult to quantify the number of unaccompanied homeless youth. She said youth are very mobile, distrust adults, choose to remain disconnected from networks of support and avoid shelters. She said the Arizona Department of Education counted 484 unaccompanied youth in school during 2007. Ms. Mead noted homeless youth service providers are indicating that the numbers are increasing. She said homeless youth have reported other factors being victims of domestic violence and or abuse, are in poor physical health, report having substance abuse issues, are pregnant or parenting, struggle with education, and 19 percent report having attempted suicide.

Ms. Mead provided information regarding housing, census data and population. She said with rising mortgage foreclosures, increasing numbers of unsold homes, and the median sale price of a home decreasing significantly it is likely more people will be experiencing homelessness for the first time. Ms. Mead said according to the 2008 Kids Count Data for Arizona, 45 percent of children are in low-income families at income below 200 percent of the poverty level. She said eight percent of children were in extreme poverty at income below 50 percent of the poverty level. She noted the population growth in Arizona was 20.2 percent in 2006, only second to Nevada. Ms. Mead said the state's rate of population growth is more than triple that of the national rate of 6.4 percent.

Ms. Mead stated Appreciative Inquires Client Interviews were used in an effort to determine true needs and experiences of people who are homeless in Maricopa County. She said a series of client interviews have been conducted with people who are currently homeless and with people in permanent housing. Overall, 63 interviews were conducted and analyzed for trends regarding successful best practices and needs as indicated by clients. Clients were asked, in their opinion, what was needed to end

homelessness in Maricopa County. The clients reported the following needs as most important, Programs and funding, housing, education, training, and employment and community awareness and support.

Ms. Tenney reported on the domestic violence (DV) population, noting the numbers reported will differ depending on the definition they are applying. She stated the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence (AZCADV) reported 107 domestic violence (DV) related homicides in 2006. AZCADV uses a broader definition of DV that includes homicides with connections to DV and dating relationships which is not included in the Arizona Statutes definition. The City of Phoenix DV Fatality Review Team Report uses the Arizona Revised Statute definition of DV. The report cited 16 DV homicides in 2007. Ms. Tenney stated some key contributing factors were 65 percent of cases involved spouse/significant other relationship, 25 percent of homicides had children present, 19 percent of cases involved alcohol consumption and 14 percent involved drugs.

Ms. Tenney cited numbers on shelter beds as reported from the City of Phoenix CONTACTS for FY 2007-2008. CONTACTS received 6,398 DV single person calls with 88 percent of the callers connected to available shelter beds. She said 1,791 DV family calls were received with 83 percent being connected to available shelter beds. There were 1,272 calls transferred to DV STOP which indicated unmet needs have gone up. Ms. Tenney stated historically it has been reported two out of every three requests for DV emergency shelter have been denied due to a lack of an available bed. In Maricopa County it has been reported to be more like five out of every six.

Ms. Tenney reported on significant changes in this population. She said there has been a significant increase in shelter beds. DES received a total of \$7.3 million in new funding for new emergency shelter beds to increase the numbers served for FY 2006, 2007, and 2008. A total of 480 beds have been opened in eight counties in Arizona with three new shelters opening. Maricopa County received a total of 329 new emergency shelter beds. Maricopa County has 52 percent of total beds in Arizona with an overall total of 648, including the new shelter beds. The numbers served in shelters have increased by over 8.3 percent in the past two years from 9,020 in 2005 to 10,866 in 2007. She stated the request for shelter or unmet need has decreased by 8.9 percent from 11,436 in 2005 to 10,218 in 2007.

Ms. Tenney stated MAG along with AZCADV and the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness has collaborated together on a joint meeting to discuss maximizing both systems together. She said DV and homeless providers met in June to identify areas of future collaboration. Items discussed included training, cross-referral processes, and screening and intake procedures. The group determined to create a workgroup to move forward in developing action steps of the items discussed. Ms. Tenney added the MAG DV Council is conducting a Legal Assistance Study. The purpose is to look at experiences of DV survivors in accessing legal assistance for family court cases. The Study will include surveys of professionals and DV survivors, case study interviews, an inventory of legal services, explanation of the family court

process, and best practices. The outcome is to determine factors helpful to survivors and recommendations for improving their access to legal assistance in the region

Ms. Tenney stated the needs of this population include increasing capacity of the DV system to include transitional/affordable housing, legal assistance, community-based advocates, and emergency transportation. There is a need for flexibility in funding so survivors are not turned away from shelter. She said there is also a need to increase the knowledge of the dynamics of DV such as victimology, which is the study of the psychological effect of the survivor, to those working within the justice system. She said the continuation of prevention and intervention to include educating teens/tweens about healthy relationships is a need. She added the 2008 Liz Claiborne Report indicated 40 percent of the youngest tweens, those between the ages of 11 and 12, report that their friends are victims of verbal abuse in relationships. She indicated the need to target programs to youth in middle school, and possibly elementary school.

Chair Harris-Morgan inquired if there was other information the committee would like to see in the fact sheets. Ms. Lopez-Powell commented she would like to see data on projected needs, and to possibly look at the projections on the long term. Ms. Sherer stated the groups has looked at long term needs projection and found that it would be difficult to estimate with the changing economy. Ms. Stepnitz suggested to look at the economy for the specific groups and to anticipate the impact and request for services. Chair Harris-Morgan commented service providers might provide possible trends. Ms. Sherer indicated overall the trend is not getting any better and it would be hard to say specifically which way the economic direction will be. Divisions can project but numbers may not be accurate. Chair Harris-Morgan inquired if the committee would like a presentation of Persons with Disability. The consensus was to have a presentation.

##### 5. Social Services Block Grant Allocation Process

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Carol Sherer, DES, who provided a report on the discussion and activities of the stakeholders group. Chair Harris-Morgan thanked committee members and community partners who participated in the stakeholders group. Ms. Sherer stated the group drafted a fact sheet to provide a template to collect standardized information about the target groups to inform the allocation process. Ms. Sherer said past presentations have been informative but emotionally based. She said suggestions were to include demographic numbers, possible impacts and gaps for each target group. Ms. Sherer said a draft of the template is provided for approval as a tool to help with funding allocations.

Chair Harris-Morgan inquired on the next steps for the process. Ms. Sherer said the next step is to complete the fact sheets and to have the zero based exercise at the next HSTC meeting. Ms. Lopez-Powell stated previously the persons with developmental disabilities target group recommended where funding could best be used. She said the information was helpful and suggested to add to the fact sheets. Ms. Sherer said the information could be added to the zero based funding exercise. Chair Harris-Morgan inquired if the group discussed outcomes. Ms. Sherer replied the group concluded it

would be very difficult to get very specific and decided to globally assess each target group. Chair Harris-Morgan suggested including projections of three to five years during the zero based exercise. Ms. Lopez-Powel agreed projections would be useful.

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the design of the fact sheet as presented. Connie Stepnitz, City of Goodyear, moved to approve the fact sheet. Steve MacFarlane, City of Phoenix, seconded the motion with modification. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 2008 Regional Human Services Survey

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced DeDe Gaisthea, MAG who offered the final results of the 2008 MAG Regional Human Services Survey. Ms. Gaisthea offered a brief summary of the results from the 2008 Regional Human Services Survey to assist regional human services planning. She noted the surveys were sent out in April to all of the MAG human services committee members including the interested others. She said the survey is intended as a tool in assessing the process for allocation recommendations for SSBG, FTA Section 5310 and the Stuart B McKinney funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Gaisthea stated 58 surveys were received from six cities, 19 non profit agencies, two school districts and from the business sector. She noted some respondents filled out only the part they felt qualified to answer. A full report of the survey was handed to members. Ms. Gaisthea said survey results for the SSBG section indicated that even while 63 percent ranked adults, families and children as being the most in need, they actually would decrease the funding for this target group to 39 percent. Older adults were ranked second in need with the funding percentage kept the same at 26 percent. Respondents ranked persons with disabilities third in need and would increase funding available to 16 percent. Persons with developmental disabilities, ranked fourth and would also increase to 19 percent. She noted the comments on percentage change were; persons with developmental disabilities population is increasing and largest unemployed, children and families, and persons with disabilities are needy but more capable of helping themselves.

Ms. Gaisthea provided a brief overview of the homeless, domestic violence and transportation section of the survey highlighting the top two responses. She noted as the previous presentations on SSBG target groups indicated, all groups overlap to some extent and where there is a lack of service in one area it is reflected in other areas. Mr. MacFarlane inquired on the calculations used to arrive at the percentage change and indicated the need to double check the reported percentage change. Ms. Gaisthea noted information from the survey was provided as a tool to the SSBG working group. She added survey reports will also be provided to the MAG Domestic Violence Council and MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness for their information.

Chair Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the 2008 Regional Human Services Survey. Carol Sherer, DES, made a motion to approve the Survey. Vice

Chari Sheffield, City of Avondale, seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. HUD Application Update

Chair Harris-Morgan introduced Brande Mead, MAG, who presented the latest update regarding new funding opportunities to support homeless assistance programs. Ms. Mead began by giving an overview of the timeline for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) application process. She stated the deadline for new funding is August 29, 2008, supplemental applications are due to MAG on August 29, 2008 and the consolidated application is due to HUD on September 26, 2008. She said this year there are two new applicants/projects opportunities. Ms. Mead stated there is \$1.394 million is new Samaritan Housing Initiative funding which can be broken up to provide to multiple providers. There is also \$2 million available for a Rapid Re-Housing of homeless families demonstration project.

The Samaritan Housing Initiative is designed to develop permanent housing projects that serve exclusively chronically homeless individuals who have a physical, mental, emotional or developmental disability, including those incurred as a result of drug or alcohol abuse. HIV/AIDS is considered a disability for these purposes.

Ms. Mead stated the second opportunity is the Rapid Re-Housing for Homeless Families which is a demonstration program for households with dependent children who have lived in emergency shelter or on the streets for at least seven consecutive days. Households must be able to independently sustain housing at the end of the short-term housing assistance, and must have a least one moderate barrier to housing. She stated for additional information on the project, please refer to the NOFA at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa08/cocgrp.cfm>.

Ms. Mead noted Rapid Re-Housing dollars are very competitive and scoring examples could be provided to those interested. She said this year the Valley of the Sun United Way will only be ranking new projects. Ms. Mead said applicants up for renewal funding and new projects will be forwarded to the MAG Continuum of Care Regional Committee for recommendation of approval on September 22, 2008. Chair Harris-Morgan inquired on the funding awarded last year. Ms. Mead said \$21 million was awarded last year and this year the Continuum will be requesting up to \$23 million.

8. Comments from the Committee

Chair Harris-Morgan commented the Arizona Department of Housing has scheduled their annual conference for September 9-11, 2008. He inquired if committee members would have a conflict for the next meeting which is schedule for September 11, 2008. Consensus from the committee was to leave the meeting date on September 11, 2008.

Bob Baratko said the City of Surprise will have a Surprise Home Preservation Forum and Free Counseling Event on September 3, 2008. It will be held at the Radiant Church, 15522 W. Paradise Lane at 7 p.m. He added on September 4, 5, and 6, 2008



counselors will be available for free confidential counseling on homeownership challenges. Mr. Baratko will provide MAG staff with additional information.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next Human Services Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the MAG offices, second floor, Cholla Room.